

Application No. 09/875,208
Docket No. 3620-P02590US0

Art Unit 2145
Examiner J Swearingen

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 12, 14-28, 31-44 are pending in the application, with claims 42-44 being newly added above and claims 11, 13, 29, and 30 being cancelled above. Claims 1-10, 12, 14-28, 31-41 stand finally rejected. Claims 1, 8, and 26 have been amended above to claim additional aspects of Applicants' invention. Claims 12, 14-18, 31, and 33-35 have been amended to change their dependencies to account for the canceled claims.

STATEMENT UNDER 1.133(b)

The undersigned representative would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesy of the telephone interview of November 17, 2005 and for the special consideration of permitting a clarifying, follow-up phone call as well.

During the interview claim 1 was discussed to address features that were not disclosed or suggested in the Tsuei reference. Specifically, we discussed the feature "whereby the changer judges whether to give permission to disclose the new address" and "a means for making the changer confirm whether the new address is disclosed". The Examiner agreed that based on the explanation of the term "changer" – namely that "changer" includes a person who is changing their address– that Tsuei does not disclose or suggest the above-quoted features with this interpretation of the word "changer". But, the Examiner was of the opinion that the word "changer" could be read more broadly. However, in a follow-up phone call, the Examiner's attention was directed to page 12, line 10 of the specification where the term "changer" is explicitly defined "as an individual or corporation... who has moved...". Hence, the Examiner agreed that his broader interpretation could not stand, but stated that his new understanding of the word "changer" would require a new search. The Examiner thus requested that a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) be filed.

In addition, another alternative basis for distinguishing over Tsuei was agreed upon. The present invention permits the changer to judge whether to give permission to disclose the new address based on the identity of the inquirer. The Examiner agreed that Tsuei does not disclose or suggest such a feature. Accordingly, Examiner agreed that claim 1 would be patentable over Tsuei if claim 1 were amended to include such a feature. Again, the Examiner

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indicated that such an amendment at this stage would require the filing of an RCE, because a new search would need to be made.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tsuei (U.S. Patent No. 6,654,779). Applicants understand that the Examiner agrees that claim 1 is allowable over Tsuei for the reasons presented above in the “statement under 1.133(b)”.

Regarding independent claim 8, Applicants have amended such claim to recite “wherein the disclosing condition includes information about inquirers to whom the address is disclosed or not disclosed, wherein the disclosure judging means includes a confirming means for making the registrant confirm whether the address is disclosed to the inquirer when the inquirer who inquires about the address is not registered in the inquirers in the disclosing condition, and wherein the confirming means informs the registrant of the attribute information about the inquirer at the time of confirmation.” In addition, Applicants have amended independent claim 26 to recite “wherein the disclosing condition includes information about inquirers to whom the address is disclosed or not disclosed, wherein the disclosure judging step includes a confirming step of making the registrant confirm whether the address is disclosed to the inquirer when the inquirer who inquires about the address is not registered in the inquirers in the disclosing condition, and wherein attribute information about the inquirer is reported to the registrant in the confirming step.” Although independent claims 8 and 26 were not discussed during the interview, Applicants understand that the amendments of claims 8 and 26 render such claims allowable over Tsuei for the reasons agreed upon with respect to claim 1 and presented above. For example, Examiner agreed that Tsuei fails to disclose the feature that the changer (or registrant) judges whether to give permission to disclose the new address based on the identity of the inquirer (e.g., attribute information of the inquirer).

Accordingly, for at least the above reasons, Applicants understand that the rejections of independent claims 1, 8 and 26 are overcome. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the

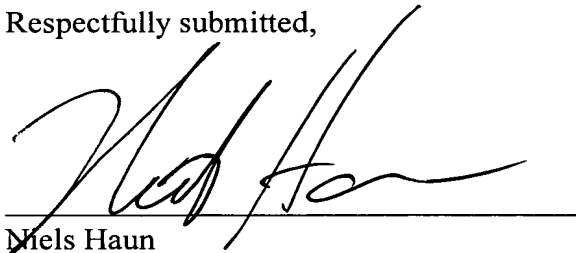
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rejections of claims 1, 8 and 26, as well as claims 2-7, 9, 10, 12, 14-25, 27, 28, and 31-44 which depend respectively therefrom, be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that the claims in this application are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned in the event that a telephone interview will advance prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Niels Haun', written over a horizontal line.

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